

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for producing a 3-methylthiopropional in a continuous manner, the method comprising the step of supplying an acrolein and a methyl mercaptan together or sequentially with an acidic compound and a basic compound into a reaction system to react the acrolein with the methyl mercaptan,

wherein the basic compound is used in an amount of 0.3 mol or less per mol of the acidic compound, and

wherein the acidic compound is an aliphatic carboxylic acid and the basic compound is a nitrogen-containing organic base.

2. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the acrolein and the methyl mercaptan are supplied together with the acidic compound and the basic compound into the reaction system.

3. (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the acidic compound and basic compound are previously mixed with each other before being supplied into the reaction system.

4. (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the basic compound is used in an amount of from 0.05 to 0.3 mol, per mol of the acidic compound.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the basic compound is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 0.25 mol, per mol of the acidic compound.